

REPORT

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The cloister in Tepla housed two battalions: 1st Battalion was quartered in four wooden barracks and the 4th Battalion was quartered in the monastery proper. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions are at Mariánské Lázně in new barracks built in 1949.

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3. A machine gun company had three platoons of three squads each. A squad was composed of six men and one heavy machine gun (only nine heavy machine guns per company). The members of a machine gun company were armed with rifles or pistols. The heavy machine gun company may be used for antiaircraft purposes.

5. Armament and weapons of the 2nd Infantry Regiment
7.65mm pistols (Czech made)
9mm pistols (1943-44 German made)
7.92mm M98 rifles 1940 to 1942 and 44. (50% were in need of repair).
7.92mm M26 light machine guns (1936-39 Czech made). Machine guns were in an extremely poor condition.
9mm M23 automatic rifles (1947-1949 Czech made). The automatic rifle M25 has a steel or metal butt while the M23 rifle has a wooden butt. "Panzerovka" (anti-tank weapon) - Czech made and not used thus far. It can be fired automatically and requires two men for firing. (one a gunner and the other an ammunition loader)
The weapon weighs approximately 5 kg. In case of war each squad will have one Panzerovka, which is capable of penetrating 20 cm of armored plate.

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6. Self-propelled guns - 2nd Infantry Regiment had 4 self-propelled guns mounted on an armored half-track.
Mortars - only four 120mm Soviet-made mortars in the whole regiment.
7. Motor Vehicles - an infantry regiment had approximately 50 trucks: 3½ ton RN and RND type made by CKD in Prague in 1948. RN-type vehicles are gasoline powered and have a four wheel rear drive. The RND type truck uses Diesel fuel. The regiment also has 30 1½ ton automobiles, Aero type, 1948-1949 model, manufactured in the Aero factory in Prague-Vysocany. In addition there were three 3½ ton 1943 Steyer trucks made in Austria. These also have a four-wheel rear drive. The regiment also had 12 1948-1949 Skoda-Tuder autos (comparable to a US jeep) made by the Skoda factory in Mlada Beleslave. All the above vehicles were in good working condition.
There were 60 horses and 18 trained shepherd dogs in the organization. There were no homing pigeons.
8. Supply and Warehousing - The ammunition warehouse for the 2nd Infantry Regiment was located in the park of the former monastery. It was a one-floor wooden barracks guarded day and night by two soldiers armed with automatic weapons and one Very pistol. Guards had orders to shoot on sight anyone within 200 meters of the warehouse. Another ammunition warehouse, located in the forest near Marianske Lazni was guarded by one to eight soldiers. A supply warehouse for the regiment was in the main building of the monastery in Tepla. The motor-pool was also located in the barracks at Marianske Lazni and in the monastery in Tepla.
9. Health Service - The dispensary, for the regiment, attended by a doctor, was located in the barracks at Marianske Lazni. There was another doctor (a lieutenant) in the monastery in Tepla.
10. Maneuvers and Instructions - Basic training period was one month. The first two weeks were devoted to close order drill (without arms) and saluting. After the second week the men were issued rifles, gas masks and the remainder of their infantry equipment. The issuing of weapons and equipment was ceremoniously carried out. Before the rifles were handed to the men, the deputy commander of the regiment, Staff Captain (Cm) Kubiš stated "Soldiers, for you this is a moment of great honor in which the working people hand over to you your weapons and thus express in you their vote of confidence. See to it that you never betray this confidence." Weapon training began after all rifles were issued. First there were lessons in nomenclature, assembly, disassembly and immediate action. These were followed by close order drill under arms. Marksmanship exercises took place when all preliminary training was completed. After two months, firing ranges were used for firing rifles, automatic weapons and light machine guns. During non-firing periods, instructions in the use of the gas mask and hand grenades were given. Visual aids for the main parts of weapons, gas masks and grenades were available. Training was excellent and carried out under strict supervision. Offensive combat consisting of street fighting, trench warfare and assault on a fortified position was also taught. A two-day 70 km forest march each month involved the entire battalion. Much of this time was devoted to trench warfare. It was mandatory for all office and kitchen help to participate in this training.
The total strength of the regiment was 1,200 men from the following military service groups 1950-1951: On 1 April 1952, 300 recruits were drafted into the service and scheduled for entry later in 1952. The age group 1950 was to be discharged in October 1952. Age group 1951 was to be discharged in October 1953 and age group 1952 was to be discharged in March 1954.
11. Morale-Up to 80% of the men in the regiment were dissatisfied. They performed their duties negligently, failed to follow orders and did only what they had to do. These men always complained about military service, about conditions and about the food. Ten percent were devoted to the Communist regime and the remaining 10% failed to demonstrate any interest in political development or any political affiliation. It was possible to observe dissatisfaction among the officers.
12. Leave - Passes were permitted only twice a week on Saturdays and Sundays. Leave on Saturday began at 2200. To remain absent until 0200 Sunday morning, a special pass had to be obtained. On Sunday the men were permitted to leave at 1300 and had to return by 2200. No passes were issued to remain absent after bedcheck on Sunday. In the event of death in a soldier's family, he was granted leave according to the number of miles he had to travel.
13. Wages - a soldier formerly received 450 crowns per month but as of March 1952 he received only 300 crowns. A private first class received 330 crowns per month, a corporal 390 crowns, and a sergeant 450 crowns per month. Soldiers received three cigarettes per day every ten days.
Food - the food was insufficient and the men were constantly hungry. Breakfast consisted of clear soup, bread, black coffee (cream only twice a week); Lunch consisted of soup, six potatoes with gravy and 10 delagrama of chopped meat; and dinner (hot meal) was soup, black coffee, potatoes and 70 grams of chopped meat. A cold dinner was always served on Sunday. A cold meal was considered the best.

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4. Political training - took place on Tuesday and Thursday 0800-1000. The program of political lectures included such subjects as the "Origin of the Great October Revolution," "Origin of the Red Army", "Marxism and Leninism Seen in the Light of the February Happenings in Czechoslovakia"

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